Michigan Man Convicted Of Three Metro Detroit Murders Found Dead In His Single-Person Prison Cell

New Media Detroit StaffJuly 30, 2026

Lansing, MI — A Michigan man serving multiple life sentences for three murders committed after he was mistakenly released from prison has died in an apparent suicide while incarcerated, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Patrick Alan Selepak, 47, died on July 29, 2026, at Baraga Correctional Facility in Michigan's Upper Peninsula after correctional staff found him unresponsive inside his single-person cell. The Michigan Department of Corrections said lifesaving efforts were initiated before Selepak was transported to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Based on evidence at the scene, officials said his death was the result of an act of self-harm.

An autopsy and any potential investigation by the Michigan State Police have not yet been announced.

Selepak became one of Michigan's most notorious inmates after a series of violent crimes in early 2006. His case drew statewide attention because the killings occurred only weeks after he had been mistakenly released from prison following a parole violation.

Court and MDOC records show Selepak ultimately received three life sentences for first-degree premeditated murder, along with dozens of additional convictions carrying lengthy prison terms. His convictions included kidnapping, carjacking, assault with intent to commit murder, armed robbery, first-degree home invasion, assault on a pregnant woman with intent to cause a miscarriage or stillbirth, multiple felony firearm offenses, felon in possession of a firearm, unlawfully driving away an automobile, identity theft, prisoner possessing a weapon and escape from prison.

The three murder convictions stemmed from separate crimes committed in Macomb and Genesee counties.

On February 15, 2006, prosecutors said Selepak murdered Scott Berels, 27, and Melissa

Berels, 27, of New Baltimore during a violent home invasion in Macomb County. For those killings, he pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree premeditated murder and numerous related felonies, including kidnapping, armed robbery, first-degree home invasion and assault with intent to cause a miscarriage or stillbirth.

Just days later, on February 21, 2006, Selepak murdered Winfield “Fred” Johnson, 52, in Genesee County. He also pleaded guilty to first-degree premeditated murder, carjacking, armed robbery and additional firearm offenses in that case.

The Michigan Department of Corrections inmate record reflects three separate life sentences for first-degree murder, in addition to numerous concurrent sentences ranging from two years to 100 years for his other convictions.

Selepak’s girlfriend at the time, Samantha Bachynski, was also convicted in connection with the killings. She was found guilty in the murders of Scott and Melissa Berels and later pleaded no contest to second-degree murder in Johnson’s death. She remains incarcerated at Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility serving a life sentence.

Selepak’s mistaken release in 2006 prompted widespread scrutiny of Michigan’s parole and prisoner release procedures and helped lead to legislative changes intended to prevent similar administrative errors in the future.

According to MDOC records, Selepak’s inmate status now reflects that he was discharged on July 29, 2026, the date of his death.

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